Industry-Led Solutions

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A National Strategy

- Assist producers in addressing CWA issues
- Current EPA top down inspection-based regulatory approach may not work
- Current USDA voluntary programs may not work

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The Clean Water Act

In 1972, Congress instituted the NPDES program for point source pollution

- Removed pressure to develop the science to support ambient standards-based programs
- Focus now shifting to the use of TMDLs

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Institutional System

- USDA programs designed under the New Deal—government ran from the “cabinet” to the “county”
- EPA programs developed under the banner of cooperative federalism—states as the primary implementing agencies

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Institutional System

Clean Water Act objectives will most likely:

- Continue to be state-sponsored
- Require cooperation between government, state and federal agencies, and NGOs

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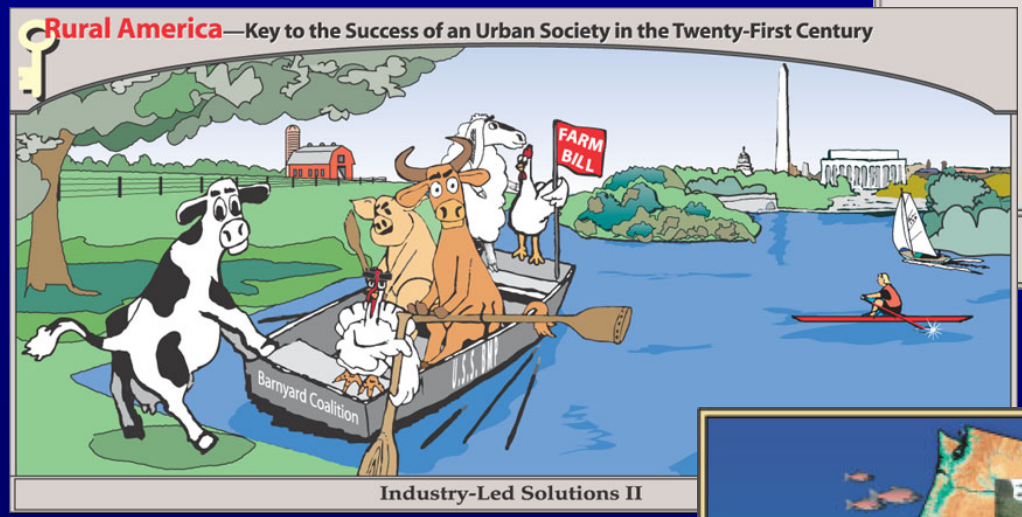
CLEAN WATER
Industry-Led Solutions
Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington D.C.
January 27-28, 2000


Rural America—Key to the Success of an Urban Society in the Twenty-First Century
FARM BILL
Barnyard Coalition
U.S.S. BWP
Industry-Led Solutions II


Industry-Led Solutions III

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Purpose

A proactive approach to ensure effective, scientifically sound water quality policies that meet the unique needs of agriculture and maintain the economic viability of the industry.

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Industry-Led Solutions I January 2000

- National dairy leaders
- USDA—NRCS
- U.S. EPA
- Environmental groups (observer/participants)

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Industry-Led Solutions II January 2002

- National dairy leaders
- Beef/sheep
- Pork
- Poultry and egg

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Outcomes

- Industry-led assessment and certification program
- Increased technical and financial assistance

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Outcomes

- Watershed Demonstration Projects
- Fast Track Research Watersheds
- Data Confidentiality

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Industry-Led Solutions III November 2002

- National livestock leaders
- Row crop agriculture
- The fertilizer industry
- “Corporate friends of agriculture”

Recommendations

1. Develop an environmental certification program for agriculture
2. Invest in the science to support results based policy programs
3. Develop a constituency to support new programs

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Certification Program Components

- A comprehensive and objective assessment of water quality risk factors
- Development of a CNMP, EMS, or certification under ISO 14000
- A third-party audit to provide transparency while respecting the need for confidentiality

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Investing in the science

Science must drive environmental policy. Some important science related issues:

- Measuring the success of nonpoint source programs
- Developing monitoring systems to measure progress and success

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Investing in the science

- Examining how land-use and land-management activities impact water quality
- Examining the science upon which water quality standards are based

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Developing a constituency

Agriculture must grow a constituency to support certification programs and other science-based efforts that address nonpoint source water pollution.

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Developing a constituency

Workshop participants supported the creation of a federal commission or committee comprised of members that represent the type of broad-based constituency needed to pass legislation and secure funding.

Developing a constituency

The commission would be charged with:

- Developing a results-oriented environmental stewardship program for agriculture
- Establishing scientific research priorities

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Developing a constituency

- Developing reasonable measures by which the industry can be held accountable
- Identifying ways to enhance industry sustainability and profitability

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ILS: Gulf of Mexico

November 20-21, 2003

St. Louis, Missouri

30-35 participants

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ILS: Gulf of Mexico

- Agricultural producers
- State conservationists
- Regional EPA representatives
- Environmental interests
- Point source representative
- Other ag-related interests

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ILS: Gulf of Mexico

Application of the Industry-Led Solutions methodology to a regional issue

- Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico
- The role of agricultural producers
- Provide for a coordinated effort in addressing the challenge

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